



Regional Service Council Minutes

Region # 2

Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2006

Meeting Location: Porter County DCS Office, Valparaiso, IN.,

Council Members Present: Charlotte Richey, Terrance Ciboch, Claudia Clark, Linda Gray, Judge Mary Harper, Sharon Mathew, Dr. Linda Rugg, Judge Michael Shurn, Eileen Walters

Council Members Absent: Larry Harris, Judge Jeryl Leach

Others In Attendance: Ron Fisher, Laurel Myers, Jon Rutkowski, Jackie Agee, (White's Family Services), Magistrate Edward Nemeth, James A. Shively, (Child Welfare Services, Coordinator), Alison Cox, (Porter Co. Probation), Amy Beir, (Porter Co. Juvenile Probation), Jill Whitaker, (Dunebrook), Jim Burns, (Family Focus, Inc.), Rodney Barbee, (Wernle Children's Home)

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: Regional Service Council meeting was called to order by Charlotte Richey at 5:32 P.M. (CST)/6:32 P.M. (EST)

1. It was noted that 9 council members were present when the meeting was called to order enough to constitute a quorum.
2. Motion made to pass November 1, 2006 minutes by Linda Gray and seconded by Eileen Walters. Vote to pass, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions. Motion passed.
3. Regional proposals for Sex Offender And Victim Treatment Summary And Recommendations were distributed. A team of five DCS employees (non voting RSC members) had reviewed and scored proposals submitted by four (4) providers. Submitting providers were:
 1. Family and Children's Center
 2. Four County Counseling
 3. Keys Counseling
 4. PACT (Project PRO)

There were some concerns about each of the proposals which surfaced in the discussions. The Review Team felt that none of the proposals adequately addressed billing situations. They also felt it was problematic to expect clients to

travel to the provider for services and would probably be a barrier for them to receive referrals. None of the proposals were met with unanimous approval from the Team. The RSC spent some time reviewing all of the material and the summary submitted from the scoring team. The group consensus seemed to be that they would recommend going ahead and contract with the multiple providers and allowing ourselves a chance of getting somebody new; not necessarily using the same people that they have and to see what happens. It is a zero based contract so there is nothing guaranteed. A motion was made by Judge Shurn to schedule meetings with all four of the providers to talk specifically about their proposals, and our concerns, to see how they are going to address the problems we have discussed at this RSC meeting. This motion was seconded by Judge Harper. Vote taken 0 opposed 1 abstention motion passed.

4. Child Welfare Services Proposals. Everyone was sent a copy of the advertisement that went out in all six (6) counties. All Directors' did advertise two (2) times the month of November. Six (6) contacts were received at the Regional Office and the deadline for proposals is December 8, 2006. Since our last RSC meeting we have received instructions from Central Office that Child welfare services funding, regardless of source, will not be approved for use unless the service funded is identified as a service gap in the Regional Strategic Plan for 2007. This plan **must be** approved by the Regional Services Council and then approved by Central Office before funding will be released. Two documents were handed out by Charlotte Richey. What they are asking is that each Region completes a needs assessment. As a result of this assessment a strategic action plan that identifies needs should be submitted. How do we complete a needs assessment? We can pay someone up to \$1,000.00 to do our assessment or we can use a spreadsheet and list our service standards, according to each Counties needs. Monies will not be forthcoming from down State until we have an action plan in place and approved by the RSC. Charlotte Richey asked that by 12/11-12, at the latest, that ideas be e-mailed to her concerning the identified gaps/service needs in each county as recognized by the County Director.

5. Community Partners Report. The AdHoc committee meeting was held prior to today's RSC meeting. Dunebrook has been out in the community trying to get their sub-contractors in place. Dunebrook's home base is LaPorte County however; Family Focus has been actively working in several areas of the County. They have been mandated to use an initial type of assessment tools based on Healthy Families. Jill Whitaker from Dunebrook has succeeded in finding strength based tools that have been approved by The United Way. Dunebrook still does not have an executed contract leaving them unpaid for services already rendered. Original plans called for referrals to begin January 1, 2007. It appears that date will not be met. February 1, 2007, will be a more realistic date for referrals to begin. Two (2) training components need to be completed; Dunebrook to train

their own staff on all of the assessment documents and then meet with DCS staff on the referral end.

6. We had tabled an issue last month regarding Independent Living Funding. Jim Shively had his completed report available for this meeting. This report identified individuals/agencies that we have contracted with for over this current year, and the money was arbitrarily split between wards and those that have aged out of the system and are coming back for additional services. The critical thing to be aware of is that we have \$74,791.00 funding that is available for eighteen (18) months, 7/01/06 – 12/31/07. The second section shows that \$140,835.50 had been spent in the prior 12 month year, 7/01/05 – 6/30/06. These figures lead one to believe that \$74,791.00 funding may not make it thru the entire 18 month period. Most of the expenditures last year were with the wards, and those disbursements can be paid out of County funds assuming that county funding is available. The State has released another \$500,000.00 and has placed these monies in a State wide reserve.

7. Member Comments. Six (6) surveys out of the ten (10) that were handed out to RSC members have been returned. Some discussion followed about the time of the meetings, and the availability of DCS members to speak freely. It was decided to leave the schedule as it is now.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: January 3, 2007 Jasper County Public Library, in Rensselaer, IN., at 5:30 P.M. (CST)/6:30 P.M. (EST).

Meeting Adjourned at: 6:49 P.M. (CST)/7:49 P.M. (EST).